



Work begins on Reina Beatrix Airport Solar Park on Earth Day



Unveiling the status board

As the sun set on the Reina Beatrix International Airport, on Monday, April 22, global Earth Day, Aruba's Minister of Finance, Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy, Mike de Meza, was joined by Minister of Tourism, Transport & Labor, Otmar Oduber, Airport Authority CEO Peter Steinmetz, ELMAR Director Roberto Henriquez and PFixx Solar Aruba NV Director Fons von Pul, in performing the official unveiling and groundbreaking ceremony of what will be the largest photovoltaic carport in the Caribbean.



Rendering of the solar car park

The project tender was made public in 2011 and PFixx Solar NL has been awarded the contract for the design and construction of the park, which can provide 3.5 MW of energy,

enough to power at peak performance 2,000 to 2,500 homes. This is another step in the declared mission of Aruba's current administration to see the island 100 percent sustainable by 2020.

Officially welcoming the gathering of media, ministers, parliamentarians, along with airport and ELMAR execu-

rism, Otmar Oduber, for his keen interest in this project, particularly situating the solar park at the airport. Minister Oduber saw this as a way to share Aruba's vision for a fully sustainable island with arriving vacationers, thus giving them some insight into the community and mindset of the government and populace. He acknowledged the importance of cooperation on all fronts in taking Aruba on its goal towards full sustainability.

Aruba Airport Authority CEO Peter Steinmetz recognized the environmental impact of a busy airport, and stated the AAA "strived their utmost to reduce the negative impact" as much as possible. "Environment has been, for several years, a main point of AAA strategy.

Continued on page 3



Ministers de Meza and Oduber for official groundbreaking



Roberto Henriquez of ELMAR, Minister Oduber, Wanda Broeksema, Minister Visser

US 'pinged' when Boston suspect flew to Russia

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said yesterday the US government's security system "pinged" when one of the Boston bombing suspects flew to Russia last year.

Her comments at a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing came as lawmakers have questioned why US authorities were not keeping a closer eye on Tamerlan Tsarnaev, 26, even after he was questioned by the FBI in 2011.

The confusion over what US officials knew about the six-month trip by Tsarnaev -- who was killed last week in a shootout with police days after the deadly blasts at the Boston Marathon -- was raised at two closed-door intelligence briefings yesterday in the Senate and House.

Napolitano told an earlier hearing on immigration that "the system pinged when he was leaving the United States" for Russia in 2012.

But she added that "by the time he returned, all investigations in the matter had been closed."

Investigators are probing

the six-month trip made by Tamerlan to Russia's troubled regions of Dagestan and Chechnya -- home to fierce Islamist and separatist groups -- and whether he was radicalized or trained there.

A year earlier, Tsarnaev had been questioned by the FBI at the request of Moscow, but investigators apparently concluded he was not a threat.

"We will learn lessons from this attack, just as we have from past instances of terrorism," Napolitano said.

Republican Senator Lindsey Graham had said Monday that a senior official at the Federal Bureau of Investigation told him US authorities missed Tsarnaev's trip because his name was misspelled in the system, possibly on a plane ticket.

Graham pressed Napolitano on the issue yesterday.

Napolitano acknowledged "there was a mismatch there," adding that an immigration reform bill now under consideration would cut down on such problems by requiring passports to be readable electronically.



Photo above is of an aerial view of the Nevado del Tolima volcano. The volcano has been active since February. The frequency and size of earthquakes has diminished, but is still above normal levels, and suggests that the intrusion of fresh magma is not yet over. A volcanic-tectonic earthquake of magnitude 2.9 occurred yesterday morning at a depth of 7.24 km NW of the Arenas crater. Some of the recent earthquakes were above magnitude 4 and felt in areas near Manizales town. The volcano is now producing a plume of gas and ash rising to about 800 meters and light ash fall has occurred in various parts of Tolima.

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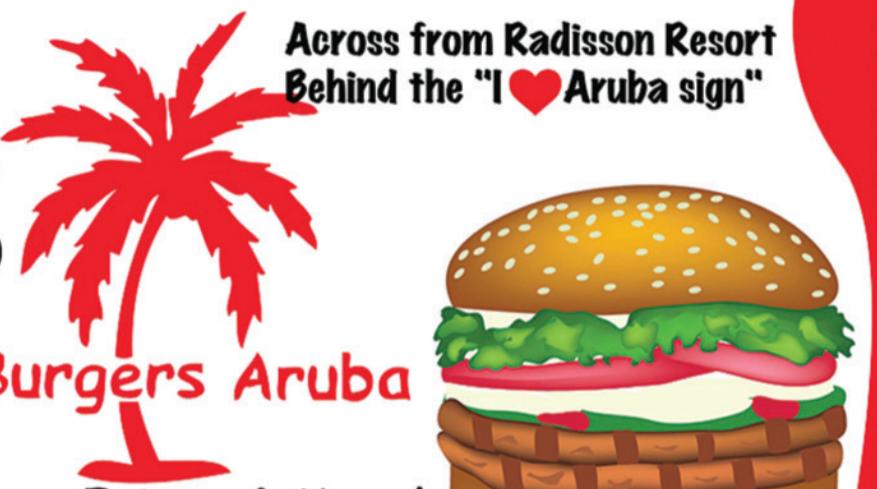
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Aruba's Authority of Civil Aviation signs off on Aruba Airlines



Aruba's Minister of Tourism, Transport and Labor, Otmar Oduber officially signed off on the Air Operator's Certificate (AOC) of the island's third

home-based airline to provide international jet service to and from the Reina Beatrix International Airport, Aruba Airlines, yesterday morning.

In the presence of media, airline owners Esteban and Ernesto Valles, aviation administrators and Prime Minister Mike Eman, Minister Oduber congratulated Aruba Airlines' CEO Ono de Swart on this milestone moment. The first of their planned jet fleet, an Airbus 320 arrived on Aruba from Guangzhou, China on November 22, 2012. After months of rigorous training for the flight and cabin crew while fulfilling Aruba's strict safety standards, the Director of Aruba Civil Aviation, Josef Maduro, declared before the gathering that the airline, crew and airplane, are ready to undertake international flights.

Prime Minister Eman and Minister Oduber agreed on the importance of Aruba Airlines joining Tiara Air Aruba and Insel Air Aruba in providing more frequent service to high-demand destinations for commercial travelers, as well as meeting the needs of vacationers from the U.S. Latin and Central America. Aruba Airlines is expected to commence regular flights to São Paulo, Brazil, with Panama, Maracaibo, Venezuela and Boston, Massachusetts.

Continued on page 3



Gov't. receives donation from Tourism sector for Police Force



Last Monday afternoon, The

Minister of Justice received a very valuable donation from the private sector for the Police Force. The keys to two Toyota Hilux pick-ups were presented by director of the Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association, Jim Hepple. These keys were in turn handed over to Police Chief, Dolfi Richardson. The two vehicles are a donation from the "Public-Private Partnership (PPP) between the government and the hotel sector which encompasses the so-called "Project Enhancement Police &

Tourism program"

The existing collaboration's objective is to provide the Police Force with necessary equipment and to create the necessary conditions to benefit the security of the tourism area in particular and the Aruban community in general.

The donated vehicles are especially equipped for surveillance, and are destined for the "Unit Veiligheidszorg" (security division) and will be used in the Noord region and particularly in the hotel area.

Continued on page 3

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Aruba's Authority of Civil Aviation... Aruba Airlines

Continued from page 2



One of the liaisons the new airline has established is to provide connections to South America for KLM flights from Holland. The Prime Minister pointed out this is very much in keeping with the current goal of his administration to position Aruba as a commercial and cultural hub between the European Union and the

Americas.

This auspicious occasion was also marked by Aruba Airlines' four pilots, Rowald Kock, Peter Richardson, Gregory Croes and his brother, Flight Director Patrick Croes, receiving their wings for the Airbus 320.

Rosalie Klein



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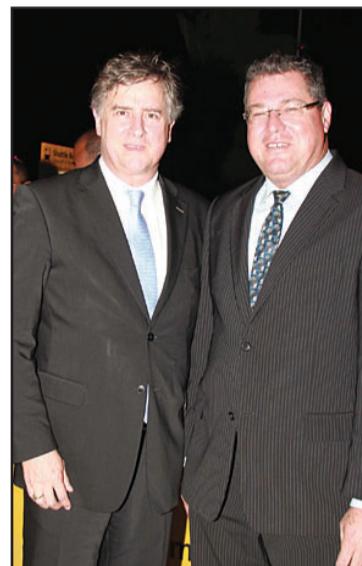
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Reina Beatrix Airport Solar Park...

Continued from page 1



Fons von Pul of Pfixx Solar Aruba and Frank Hoevertsz of Utilities Commission

An airport has consequences, but we do try to minimize that consequence. This is a perfect example of combining the use of energy and the generation of energy on the same territory. It is possible, at the end of the day, we could become "energy neutral." I have to say, this will be an excellent "Showcase Aruba-Showcase Technology, Showcase Airport - Showcase Environment - Showcase Green Energy. My compliments to all those who have contributed to this."

He particularly applauded Utilities Commission Chairman Frank Hoevertz for his diplomatic handling of negotiations between the airport, the government, and the company that won the public tender for the project, Pfixx Solar, NL, operating as Pfixx Solar Aruba N.V. Pfixx will construct and maintain the solar car park and the energy produced will be purchased by ELMAR NV, Aruba's distributors of electrical current. The design of the park will also provide shaded parking for all cars in the airport lot.

Mr. Fons von Pul of Pfixx Solar Aruba thanked the various government agencies and ministries involved for their cooperation in obtaining the necessary permits to begin the project, completion of which is expected by the end of 2013. He apologized for the inconvenience this will cause during construction, which will be in



Ministers, executives of Pfixx Aruba and Airport executives

phases from east to west, limiting the parking space available until completion.

The company is active in solar energy in Western Europe, and in the process of constructing a 26.4 MW park in Berlin-Eiche. Mr. von Pul also provided some distinctive particulars of the Aruba project: it will consist of 14,000 solar modules, each of 250 kw peak, and be a 24,000 square meter garage when completed, consisting of seven sections. The canopies will increase gradually in height from east to west by 8 degrees to provide the most efficient utilization of the sun's path, with a difference of 2.5 meters from start to finish. Capability is possible for 3.5 MW at peak production, or 6.5 million KW hours. It is expected for the concrete piles to

be placed in June if all materials arrive in a timely fashion, and completion should take 10 to 12 weeks, with the steel framing placed in mid-July. One of the most respected inverter companies in the world will be providing that aspect of system, and von Pul expressed his confidence in his Aruban advisors of Albo NV and Kroon NV in the design and implementation of the project.

Mr. von Pul finished his presentation with a traditional ritual at the commencement of such a project of Aruba, a donation to a worthy cause. In this instance, it was the YMCA of San Nicolas. Pfixx Solar Aruba NV will install a 50kw solar system to their facility, which should be sufficient to meet all their energy needs.

Rosalie Klein

Donation for Police Force

Continued from page 2

Aruba has gained and maintained a reputation for being a safe place. Repeat visitors continue to tell us that one of the reasons they continue to return is because of the safety they feel when here, also because the people are so amiable and hospitable. They also include as a reason for their repeat visits, the variety of good restaurants and excellent food. And, of course they brag about the good weather, sun, sand and

sea! Every attempt is being made to keep this reputation, by all means!

The PPP and the Project Enhancement Police & Tourism private sector recognize the importance and value of our Police Force and demonstrate this by their support. Hence, they want to continue contributing to the safety of our visitors and citizens which is so important for our future development and progress.

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EARLY BIRD SPECIAL

SVB automates data base of pensioners



At the offices of the Social Insurance Bank (SVB) there was much reason for celebration! They have finalized the automation process of the data bank of all pensioners. Minister of Public Health Richard Visser was present to push the

button to activate the process which begins a new era of the services of the SVB.

Director of SVB, Edwin Jacobs, indicated that this is an important step for SVB as it will elevate the level of the department. SVB is currently



using the PRAS (Pensioen Registratie Administratie System) system.

In the past they worked with a pension system, however, the different work process was apart and fragmented, according to the Director. This new system integrates the processes and contributes to better efficiency of the work and takes much less time to process.

According to Jacobs, this new system will increase their



efficiency to their clientele. The decisions regarding pensioners will now be much simpler to understand and henceforth will be identified by the name of the employee attending to the case. This will enable them to improve the service to their clientele.

They foresee a growth in the number of pensioners, which may reach 35 thousand at a given moment. This new system will enable them to attend to a large number of pensioners without putting pressure on employees and others.

Luis Tromp, head of Pension Services was the brain child behind the entire process along with the ITP Company. According to Luis Tromp, the new system will enable employees to work in a much more pleasant environment and more enjoyable. Pensioners will henceforth collect their pension on time. SVB is now ready to begin using this new system.

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Big group of loyal visitors honored at the Divi Phoenix



Recently, the Aruba Tourism Authority honored a big group of visitors as Distinguished Visitors and Ambassadors of Goodwill of Aruba. The honorees were Mr. Scott and Mrs. Mae Criado and their daughters Marcia and Mary from Norwood Mass; Mr. John and Mrs. Kathy Bane also from Norwood Mass; and Mr. Freddie and Mrs. Glenda Cannon as Distinguished Visitors, and Mr. Arnold and Mrs. Barbara Ackerman; Mr. Tony and Mrs. Jackie Mula from Somerset Mass. and Mr. Edward and Mrs. Helen Rossi as Ambassadors of Goodwill of Aruba. The certificates were presented to them by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Ms. Avril and Mr. Gerrit Griffith GM at the Divi Phoenix.

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AIG – Aruba employees volunteer to make children smile

AIG employees worldwide performed volunteer activities during Global Volunteer Week



Angeline of Sonrisa and Team Leader Imeldahoff with Prakash & Niti



Prize winning team of Imeldahoff gets prize at the hands of AIG managers



Sonrisa team getting prize at the hands of AIG managers



Children decorating pots and planting seeds

As part of American International Group, Inc. (AIG) Volunteer Week, April 21 – 27, thousands of AIG employees worldwide, including AIG employees in Aruba, are doing volunteer activities in communities worldwide where the company has a business presence.

“As part of AIG volunteer week, AIG Aruba did partnered with Sonrisa Aktion Club to organize an afternoon of fun activities – arts and crafts and popular games – for the children of Imeldahof Chil-

dren’s Home and Sonrisa,” said Prakash Gupta, AIG – Aruba country manager. “Our entire staff participated in the volunteer event.”

As part of the half day of activities, AIG volunteers worked with the children on the theme of “Mother Earth” concluding with each child planting a seed to grow a plant. Mr. Gupta also thanks Mr. Frans Wolf for arranging the bus and M/s Playa Trading for donating the juices for this activity.

Mr. Gupta stated that,



“Aruba AIG is delighted to support the efforts of Imeldahoff and Sonrisa Aktion Club. Every effort that we can do to improve the lives of our future generation is a step in the right direction.” He closed by saying, “our company is committed to giving back to the communities where we live and work.”




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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

US denies effort to sanction Venezuela

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States yesterday denied charges it was considering sanctions against Venezuela over its disputed election after the country's left-leaning leader warned of retaliation.

"I'm not aware of any particular effort afoot in terms of sanctions on Venezuela at this point," State Department spokesman Patrick Ventrell told reporters.

President Nicolas Maduro, heir to the late firebrand Hugo Chavez, on Monday accused the United States of threatening Venezuela as he swore in a cabinet after he was declared the victor of the election by a razor-thin margin.

Foreign Minister Elias Jaua said that if the United States "takes recourse to economic sanctions, or sanctions of any other kind, we will take measures of a commercial, energy, economic and political order that we consider necessary."

The remarks came after Roberta Jacobson, the assistant US secretary of state in charge

of Latin America, was quoted in an interview as not responding one way or another when asked whether the United States would impose sanctions if Venezuela refused a vote recount sought by the opposition.

"I think the Venezuelan side may have looked at that and read into it we're considering something, and I'm saying that that's not something that we're currently contemplating at this moment," Ventrell said of sanctions.

The United States, which had tense relations with Chavez, as well as the European Union have called for an "audit" of votes from the April 14 election. Leading Latin American nations, however, have recognized Maduro.

Despite frosty relations, Venezuela exports 900,000 barrels of oil a day to the United States. Venezuela, which depends on oil sales for 90 percent of its revenues, sits atop the world's largest proven crude oil reserves.

Church calls for halt to political persecution in Venezuela

CARACAS (AFP) - The leader of Venezuela's Roman Catholic Church called yesterday for an immediate halt to the persecution of government employees suspected of sympathizing with the opposition.

Cardinal Jorge Urosa's ap-

peal in a radio interview came amid opposition charges that government workers were being harassed and threatened with dismissal if they were found to have voted against President Nicolas Maduro.

Urosa said the constitution protects the political rights of all Venezuelans and "it's not possible for a public employee to be persecuted simply for holding a political view different from that of the ruling party."

"That has to be stopped at once, it must cease immediately," he said on Union Radio, a private radio network.

The cardinal, who heads Venezuela's conference of bishops, said dialogue was needed to resolve a political crisis over Venezuela's April 14 elections which ended in violent opposition protests over a narrow win



New 'poison' letter found as US suspect released

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A letter possibly laced with the deadly poison ricin was found at a US airbase yesterday as a man charged with sending a similar letter to the White House was released on bond, officials said.

The letter discovered at Bolling Air Force Base outside Washington comes a week after three others were intercepted on their way to President Barack Obama, a US senator and a Mississippi official.

"We've had another incident today, I'm told, at Bolling Air Force Base, the same sub-

stance," Senator Harry Reid told reporters.

The letter was discovered during routine screening of incoming mail, said the Defense Intelligence Agency, which is headquartered at Bolling.

Initial tests "indicate possible biological toxins," the agency said in a statement that did not name the toxin.

"Prudent screening methods and force protection measures were implemented to prevent personnel from being harmed," the agency said, adding that it has "maintained normal operations."

Paul Kevin Curtis, 45, was

arrested by the FBI at his home in Corinth, Mississippi last week and charged with threatening the life of the president.

His lawyer insisted yesterday that they found the wrong man, noting that the FBI could find "nothing" in Curtis's home or on his computer to link him to the letters.

"We have maintained from the beginning ... that Kevin Curtis is absolutely 100 percent innocent," Christi McCoy told CNN.

"The case has not been dismissed, but obviously we feel better about it than we did this time yesterday."

Canada train plot suspects reject charges



Terror suspect Chiheb Esseghaier arriving yesterday at Buttonville Airport just north of Toronto.

TORONTO (AFP) - Two foreign nationals arrested on suspicion of what police say was an Al-Qaeda-backed plot to derail a Canadian passenger

train rejected the charges as they made their first court appearances yesterday.

Chiheb Esseghaier, 30, and Raed Jaser, 35, were arrested on Monday for allegedly planning to carry out an attack on a Via Rail train in the Toronto area.

The pair have been charged with conspiring to carry out an attack and conspiring with a terrorist group to murder persons, though very few details about the alleged plot have been revealed.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police said the suspects were "receiving support from Al-Qaeda elements located in Iran" -- a claim quickly rejected by Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi as "truly ridiculous."

Esseghaier, in a Montreal courtroom, and Jaser, through his lawyer after a hearing in Toronto, both said they were distressed over what they described as unfounded allegations made against them. Neither man entered a formal plea.

Norris also accused authorities of "demonizing" the two suspects and questioned the timing of their arrests on the heels of last week's deadly bomb attacks in Boston and as Canadian lawmakers consider new anti-terror measures.

In Toronto, Jaser's defense team was granted a ban on publishing any evidence from the proceedings, and a bail hearing was set for May 23.

In Montreal, meanwhile, Esseghaier told Judge Pierre Labelle that the accusations were unfounded, but he was quickly cut off by the judge, who ordered the matter transferred to the Toronto court.

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WEDNESDAY

International News

Dutch civil servant jailed for spying for Russia

THE HAGUE (AFP) - A Dutch court jailed a former foreign ministry worker for 12 years on Tuesday for passing hundreds of sensitive military documents to Russia, including on NATO's activities in Afghanistan and Libya.

The 61-year-old spy, Raymond Valentino Poeteray, "perturbed and undermined the interests of the Netherlands and its allies," the court said.

"There were state secrets in some of the documents and the Netherlands' and its allies' interests were endangered," it added.

"He acted purely out of financial interest, to pay off his debts and allow him a certain lifestyle," it said, earning him 72,200 euros (\$93,000) between January 2009 and August 2011.

The documents mainly concerned political and military matters in the European Union and NATO, including on the situation in Libya, the EU observer mission to Russia's neighbour Georgia, and missions in Kosovo and Afghanistan.

"The damage done to the European Union and NATO

should be considered substantial," the court said.

Prosecutors had asked for a 15-year prison sentence.

The consular worker was arrested at Amsterdam's Schiphol airport a year ago as he was about to board a plane to Bangkok.

At the time of his arrest, law enforcement officials found four USB sticks containing sensitive information in a glasses case.

Prosecutors said he had booked a flight via Vienna so he could hand over the USB sticks.

The spotlight fell on the Dutch suspect after German police raided the home of a married Russian couple living in the central city of Marburg, allegedly the Dutch spy's handlers.

The pair, identified only by their codenames Andreas and Heidrun Anschlag, are accused of having been planted in West Germany from 1988 by the Soviet Union's KGB and later used by its successor secret service abroad, the SVR.

They are currently on trial in Stuttgart and could face up to 10 years in prison if found guilty of espionage.

Poeteray, who has worked for Dutch Foreign Affairs since 1978, pleaded not guilty to the charges and declined to testify during his trial.

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Dutchman jailed in Bali for child sex abuse

DENPASAR (AFP) - A Dutchman was jailed for three years on Tuesday on the Indonesian resort island of Bali for sexually abusing four girls.

Jan Jacobus Vogel, 55, was found guilty at Singaraja district court of groping the girls, aged nine to 12, and giving them small gifts or payments in return.

"The defendant's crime has traumatised the victims," judge Sri Haryani said. The sentence

US soldier admits 2009 killings in Iraq

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - A US soldier pleaded guilty yesterday to killing five of his colleagues in Iraq four years ago, in a plea deal to escape a death sentence, a military spokesman said.

Army Sergeant John Russell was accused of the May 2009

Michael Jackson's ex-doctor files appeal

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Michael Jackson's jailed former doctor filed an appeal against his conviction for involuntary manslaughter over the US star's 2009 death.

Conrad Murray said prosecutors failed to prove the self-styled King of Pop was on a propofol drip the day he died from an overdose of the powerful sedative, which he was using to treat chronic insomnia.

In a 231-page appeal filed by his lawyers in Los Angeles, he also alleged that the original trial judge excluded critical testimony used to convict him in November 2011.

Prosecutors said that Murray, now 60, hooked Jackson up to a continuous intravenous drip (IV) and left him alone and unmonitored, when Jackson went into respiratory arrest.



murders at a clinic for soldiers suffering from war-related stress at Camp Liberty, the largest US base in Iraq.

Russell, who has previously denied responsibility, "said 'I killed these people,' he acknowledged that," said Gary Dangerfield, a spokesman for the Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM), south of Seattle.

After pleading guilty, Russell gave an account of the killings for the first time Monday, the Los Angeles Times reported. The victims were three soldiers receiving care at the clinic and two medical officers.

"I just did it out of rage, sir," he told the military judge, Colonel David Conn, describing how he walked from room to room firing at mental health workers and patients.

"I was upset. I do not remember being angry, but I know that everyone who witnessed me outside the combat stress clinic said I looked angry," the LA Times quoted him as saying.

"What I remember most was I just wanted to kill myself.



One hundred percent, I had decided to kill myself."

The JBLM spokesman added that Russell has not admitted premeditated murder, which prosecutors have been trying to prove.

Relatives of two of the victims listened in the courtroom at the JBLM in the northwestern US state of Washington.

The mother of one of them, Michael Yates Jr., broke down as he described chasing her son and fatally shooting him, after a gun which Yates had grabbed turned out to be unloaded, the LA Times reported.

At the time, the Camp Liberty killings represented the single deadliest toll on US forces in a month in Iraq, and came at a sensitive moment in the US military's occupation of the country it invaded in 2003.

Russell was on his third tour of duty in Iraq, and his unit was preparing to leave Iraq.

Due to concerns over his mental state, his commanding officer had ordered about a week before the shooting that the soldier's weapon be confiscated and that he get counseling

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Health & Living

New York wants to raise age for buying cigarettes

NEW YORK (AFP) - New York wants to become the first major US city to raise the age for buying cigarettes from 18 to 21.

The city council is to vote on the proposal May 2. Backing it is its speaker, Christine Quinn, who is running for mayor.

All it needs for passage is a simple majority. A spokesman for Quinn said she is confident it will get the green light.

"Too many adult smokers begin this deadly habit before age 21," said Quinn in a statement.

"By delaying our city's chil-

dren and young adults access to lethal tobacco products, we're decreasing the likelihood they ever start smoking, and thus, creating a healthier city," she added.

New York is already strict about tobacco. As in many US cities, smoking is banned in bars and restaurants and parks, but here it is forbidden even on beaches. Cigarette taxes are the highest in the country.

City hall says that in 10 years the percentage of adult smokers has gone from 21.5% in 2002 to 14.8% in 2011. But among young people it has re-

mained unchanged since 2007, at 8.5%.

Authorities hope that raising the legal age for buying cigarettes will reduce the number of smokers aged 18-20 by 55%.

But the move could prove unpopular among those who already feel Mayor Michael Bloomberg should mind his own business.

Late last year he tried to ban super-sized sugary soft drinks on health grounds and many people complained. A judge blocked the measure last month, calling it arbitrary.

China bird flu spreads to new province

SHANGHAI (AFP) - China on Tuesday said the H7N9 bird flu had spread to a new area as it confirmed the first case in the eastern province of Shandong in an outbreak which has so far killed 21 people.

Since China announced on March 31 that the virus had been discovered in humans for the first time, most cases have been confined to the commercial hub Shanghai and three nearby provinces, Jiangsu, Zhejiang and Anhui.

Beijing and the central province of Henan have also reported cases.

The health ministry said a 36-year-old man living in Shandong's Zaozhuang city was confirmed to have the virus, according to a statement on its website.

That case brings the total number of confirmed infections to 105, according to official figures.

Experts fear the prospect of such a virus mutating into a form easily transmissible between humans, which could then have the potential to trigger a pandemic.

But the World Health Organization (WHO) said Monday there was still no evidence H7N9 was spreading in a "sustained" way between people in China, though it was possible



some family members may have infected one another.

"Right now we do not see evidence of sustained human-to-human transmission", said Keiji Fukuda, a top WHO influenza expert in a team visiting China to study H7N9.

Health experts differentiate between "sustained" human-to-human transmission and limited transmission, in which family members or medical personnel caring for the ill become infected.

Chinese health officials have acknowledged so-called "family clusters", where members of a single family have become infected, but have so far declined to put it down to human-to-human transmission.

The nine close contacts of the Shandong man were under medical observation, but so far were normal, the health ministry said.

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First radioactive traces from NKorea nuke test



VIENNA (AFP) - Possible radioactive traces from North Korea's February nuclear test have been detected for the first time, although it remains unclear what fissile material Pyongyang used, monitoring organisation CTBTO said Tuesday.

"The ratio of the detected xenon isotopes (xenon-131m and xenon-133) is consistent with a nuclear fission event occurring more than 50 days before the detection," the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organisation (CTBTO) said.

"This coincides very well with announced nuclear test by the DPRK (North Korea) that occurred on 12 February 2013, 55 days before the measurement."

It added however that the discovery by a monitoring station in Japan could not help it answer the key question of whether Pyongyang used plutonium or uranium in the blast.

North Korea used plutonium in its 2006 and 2009 tests and any discovery that it used highly enriched uranium for its third test would mark a significant technological step for the impoverished and un-

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predictable regime in Pyongyang.

It would also raise international concerns that North Korea might pass on weapons-grade uranium, or the necessary technology and knowhow to make it, to other "rogue states" or "terrorists" seeking to make crude nuclear explosive devices.

It is also possible that the so-called radionuclides were from a nuclear reactor or other atomic activity, and the CTBTO said it is currently examining the traces to see whether this is the case.

It ruled out however that the source was Japan's crippled Fukushima nuclear plant.

The detection was made at Takasaki, Japan, 1,000 kilometres (620 miles) from the North Korean test site. Lower levels were picked up at Ust-suriysk, Russia, one of several hundred sites worldwide reporting to the CTBTO.

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Hackers spooked markets Tuesday after breaking into the Associated Press's Twitter account and falsely reporting President Barack Obama had been injured after two blasts at the White House.

A brief alert on the news agency's @AP account read: "Breaking: Two explosions in the White House and Barack Obama is injured."

Almost immediately the wire service posted via its corporate communications feed that its @AP Twitter account had been hacked, before promptly suspending the service.

"Advisory: @AP Twitter account has been hacked. Tweet about an attack at the White House is false. We will advise more as soon as possible," @AP_CorpComm posted.

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Hackers cause stir with 'Obama injured' AP tweet

White House spokesman Jay Carney later told reporters the president was unharmed. "I can say that the president is fine," Carney said shortly after the fake tweet. "I was just with him."

Stock markets plunged just as the report came out, with the Dow Jones Industrial Average losing 130 points, or 0.9 percent, and the S&P 500 dropping 12 points, or 0.8 percent.

Just as quickly they rebounded to where they were before the tweet, all within three or four minutes.

Online activists backing the regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad later claimed responsibility for the hack, the latest in a series it has orchestrated against high-profile news organizations.

Running on vapors, literally, in hard pressed Cuba

HAVANA (AFP) - It's a wonder they move at all -- the big old Chevrolets and other American jalopies from the 1950s and 60s that ply the potholed streets of Cuba.

Now, ingenious Cubans have rigged them to run on propane and Cuban police are cracking down, out of fear there are "rolling bombs" on the country's roads, the official newspaper Granma reported Tuesday.

The jimmy rig is done because gasoline is so expensive -- nearly \$6.50 a gallon, payable in dollars, in a country where the average monthly wage is around 20 dollars.

Propane gas, used for cooking and heating, is subsidized and much cheaper.

In 2011, 57 cars fashioned to run on gas were detected. Last year the number went up to 124. And just through April 16 of this year, it stands at 110 already.

"At this rate the figure could quadruple, with the danger that carries with it," said Roberto Rodriguez Fernandez of the National Traffic Directorate.

"It is essential to keep one of these rolling bombs from exploding," he told the newspaper.

He said most of the fuel-switching was being done in Havana and with the big old American gunboats that are used as privately owned taxis.

Drive Safely

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PICKLES



MOMMA



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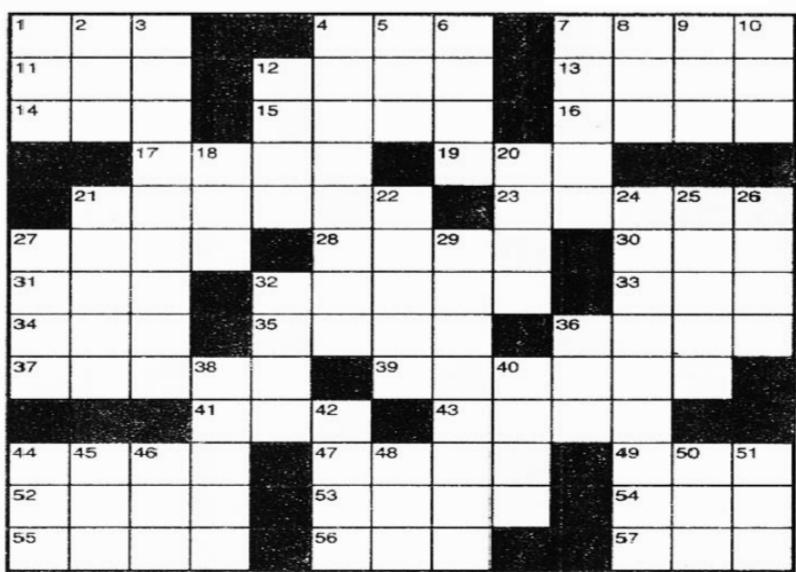
CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Sony rival
- Loud thud
- Model Macpherson
- Mouth border
- Attractive
- Fate
- Sponge (up)
- Norwegian capital
- Overload
- Be first
- Worry
- Gideon's books
- Printer's item
- Excess fat
- Bog fuel
- ___ creek without a paddle (2 wds.)
- Charged particle
- Rambles
- Cloth scrap
- Bandleader Severinsen
- To be (Fr.)
- Whits
- Alpha's counterpart
- Removes old wallpaper
- Find a sum
- "___ Alone"
- Hair-grooming tool
- Irving and Brenneman
- Uncoverer's exclamation

DOWN

- "Kidnapped" author's inits.
- AFL's partner
- Refrigerator, e.g.
- Greyhound stop (2 wds.)
- Large ocean (abbr.)
- Tabby's comment
- Lawn tool
- Reaction to an
- IM joke
- Comedic Costello
- Ambulance worker (abbr.)
- Certain fuel
- ___ tide
- Selects
- Open, as a flower
- Burns
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- Wilts
- Rover's friend
- Purple stone
- Librarian's urging
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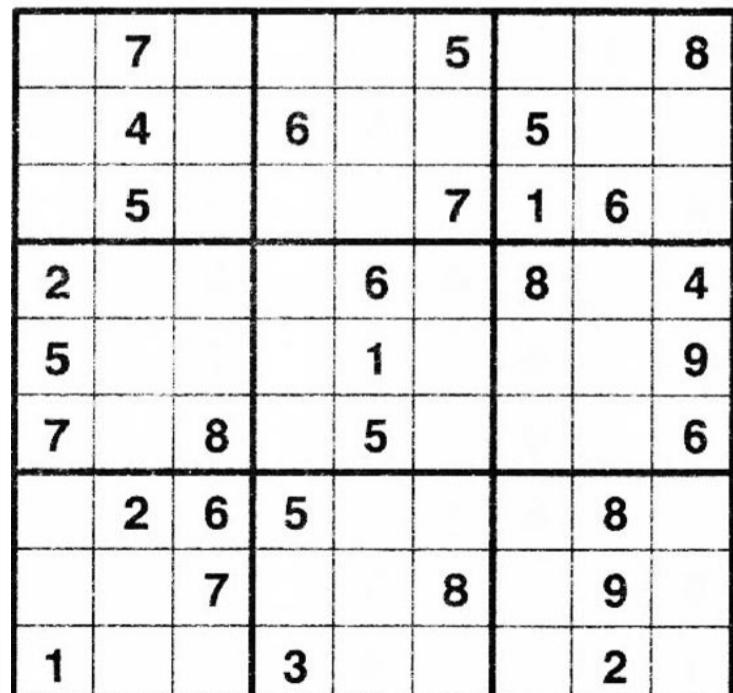
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| 8 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 3 |
| 3 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 2 |
| 6 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 8 |

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
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In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

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Finance**Portugal faces billions in losses after speculative deals**

LISBON (AFP) - Portugal said Tuesday that several state-run companies face losses that could hit some three billion euros (\$4 billion) from "highly speculative" financial deals they entered into in recent years.

The discovery by the government is a serious blow to the small eurozone country which is already scrambling to meet the austerity conditions linked to its 78 billion-euro bailout.

The finance ministry said several of the deals were not simple instruments designed to reduce risk, but contained "highly speculative structures."

The daily Publico said the deals involved swaps which pushed up interest rate on some loans to 20 percent.

According to local media, the bulk of the deals were discovered in the transport sector, involving companies running the Lisbon and Porto metros as well as the national railway.

The finance ministry added the deals had been entered under the former government which was ousted by the current centre-right coalition in June 2011.

It added talks were underway with the banks involved to compensate for potential losses suffered by the state.

US hits 2 Lebanon exchange firms with sanctions

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States designated two Lebanese foreign exchange firms as significant money launderers on Tuesday, saying they moved money for drug traffickers and benefited the Hezbollah militia.

The US Treasury named

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Kassem Rmeiti & Co. For Exchange and Halawi Exchange Co. for sanctions which freeze any assets they have on US soil and ban Americans and US businesses from any transactions with them.

It said both had been used to move money by the Ayman Joumaa narcotics network, a primary target in recent years of US law enforcement, since the Treasury cracked down on the Lebanese Canadian Bank in 2011 for its alleged money laundering activities.

After sanctions deprived the Lebanese Canadian Bank access to key parts of the global financial system, the Treasury said, the Joumaa group used Kassem Rmeiti and Halawi to move its money, including passing millions through other banks into the United States to buy used cars, which are then exported to West Africa.

Both were linked to Benin-based money launderers and drug groups, according to the Treasury.

Both were also tied by the Treasury to money transfers for Hezbollah or officials of Hezbollah, which Washington has designated a terrorist group.

Oil prices nearly flat after weak China, Europe data

NEW YORK (AFP) - Oil prices rebounded from an early fall to finish almost flat Tuesday after weak economic news in China and Europe.

US benchmark West Texas Intermediate for June delivery gave up 1 cent to close at \$89.18 per barrel.

European oil benchmark Brent futures dipped 8 cents to \$100.31 per barrel.

The decline in oil came after preliminary data showed manufacturing activity in China slowed in April due to sluggish foreign demand.

The HSBC purchasing managers' index (PMI) for the month came in at 50.5, from 51.6 in March. A reading above 50 indicates growth and anything below points to contraction.



March.

The weak figures go "right into the heart of the demand question for oil as we move forward," said John Kilduff, a trader at Again Capital. "If you have China barely expanding, and the Eurozone showing no progress whatsoever, it makes for the bearish case on the market for crude oil."

Tuesday's strong equity market was one factor behind the relatively subdued drop in oil prices, said Bart Melek, head of commodity strategy at TD Securities. The main indices were all up one percent or more at the close.

"All in all, the energy market was kind of helped along by fairly decent equity numbers," Melek said.

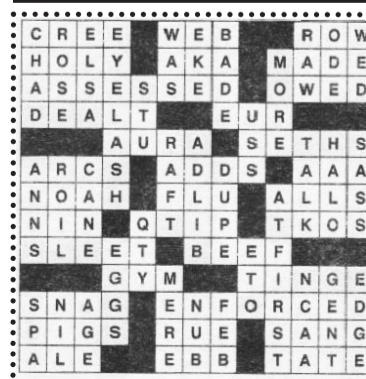
US stocks surge on upbeat earnings

NEW YORK (AFP) - US stocks leaped in morning trade Tuesday as investors dismissed downbeat Chinese manufacturing data and focused on a batch of encouraging US company earnings reports.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 135.30 points (0.93 percent) at 14,702.47 by 1445 GMT.

The broad-based S&P 500 rose 14.16 (0.91 percent) to 1,576.66, while the tech-rich Nasdaq Composite Index added 33.76 (1.04 percent) at 3,267.31.

"A disappointing Chinese

**YESTERDAY'S
Crossword Answer**

manufacturing report and lackluster business activity reports out of the eurozone are being met with a plethora of upbeat domestic earnings releases," Charles Schwab & Co. said in a market note.

Dow member DuPont jumped 2.9 percent after the chemical firm's first-quarter earnings topped analysts' estimates.

United Technologies, another Dow component, fell 1.1 percent after reporting quarterly profits well above forecasts, thanks largely to its acquisition of aeronautics firm Goodrich in 2012. But it warned that government "sequester" spending cuts would weigh on full-year sales.

Still on the Dow, Travelers

gained 2.5 percent. The insurer also posted better-than-expected results, citing improved underlying operating margins.

Apple added 0.5 percent ahead of its highly anticipated second-quarter earnings due after the market close.

The government's report on new-home sales in March, showing a 1.5 percent rise from February, came in slightly above expectations and confirmed an upward trend in the ailing housing market.

Stocks extended Monday's rebound from last week's losses, the worst this year. The Dow closed up 0.14 percent, the S&P 500 added 0.47 percent and the Nasdaq jumped 0.86 percent.

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Syria's oil industry choked by conflict and sanctions



PARIS (AFP) - The European Union was set this week to ease its embargo on Syria's oil production, which has dwindled to just a third of the level before the conflict erupted in March 2011.

Following is a rundown of the current state of Syria's oil sector:

PRODUCTION AND EXPORTS: From around 400,000 barrels of oil a day in early 2011 -- ranking the country as the world's 30th biggest oil producer -- the International Energy Agency (IEA) estimates that Syrian production has slipped to 130,000 barrels a day, or just over 0.1 percent of the world total.

An April report cited by the country's official media said oil exports, which previously

accounted for more than a third of Syria's foreign trade, have dropped to almost zero.

Syria's total of exported goods, including oil, fell to \$185 million (140 million euros) in 2012, compared with \$7.2 billion in 2011 and over \$11 billion in 2010.

OILFIELDS UNDER REBEL AND REGIME CONTROL: Syria's main oil-fields are concentrated around the northeastern provinces of Deir Ezzor and Hassaka, near the Iraqi border, and is where key sector players such as Shell and Total operated until they suspended their activities. The oil from this region is of high quality.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) estimates that

the bulk of these oilfields are now controlled by rebels -- a main motive for the EU wanting to ease the embargo -- and Al-Nusra Front militants in particular.

President Bashar al-Assad's regime still controls the al-Omar oilfield -- one of the regime's last positions east of Deir Ezzor city -- and in the far northeast, the state-owned Syrian Petroleum Company (SPC) exploits some wells located in territory controlled by the Kurdish minority.

EFFECT OF THE EMBARGO: As a result of the EU oil embargo, which bans European companies from dealing with Syrian crude oil or supplying equipment, the country's oil and gas sector is now mainly serves domestic consumption.

Even when the embargo is lifted, future export opportunities remain meagre as the Syrian pipeline network directed toward the Mediterranean. Experts say the oil would therefore have to travel by tanker to Turkey and Iraq.

Before the conflict broke out, the IEA estimates that Syrian crude oil exports reached some 143,000 barrels a day, with the EU buying most of it.

Cuban dissident women pick up EU prize eight yrs later

BRUSSELS (AFP) - Cuba's "Ladies in White," who fought for the release of jailed Cuban dissidents, on Tuesday picked up the EU's prestigious Sakharov human rights prize -- eight years after winning the award.

Five members of the group -- known in Spanish as "The Damas de Blanco" -- were finally able to travel to Brussels to accept the 2005 Sakharov award from the hands of European Parliament president Martin Schulz.

"You are the symbol of resistance against the Cuban government, and thousands and thousands of Cubans support you inside and outside the country," Schulz said.

The group was founded by the wives, sisters, mothers and friends of 75 jailed Cuban activists rounded up and sentenced to long prison terms in 2003.

Psy's 'Gentleman' hits 200 mn YouTube views



SEOUL (AFP) - "Gangnam Style" star Psy's new music video has garnered 200 million views on YouTube in the nine days since its release and smashed the video-sharing site's record for single-day hits. The video of "Gentleman" -- the much-anticipated follow-up to the South Korean singer's global hit -- reached the 200-million milestone Monday after its April 13 debut, YouTube said in a statement. The video recorded 38.4 million views on April 14, destroying the previous single-day record of 31 million views set by "KONY 2012" -- a documentary about a Ugandan warlord made by the charity group Invisible Children. It was the video of "Gangnam Style", and in particular Psy's signature horse-riding dance, that pushed him to global stardom after it was posted on YouTube and turned into a viral sensation. The "Gentleman" video shows Psy, wearing his signature shades, performing his new hip-swinging dance at various locations in and around Seoul including a high-end clothing store, restaurant and a swimming pool.

Enjoy an authentic Arubiana every Saturday at the Mill Resort restaurant



Masiduri dancers with Caha di Orgel



Norman and Lois Beaulieu.

Every Saturday evening The Mill Resort's has their regular Arubiana night.

The festive evening offers authentic local entertainment and a buffet of criollo dishes to introduce guests to island cuisine and culture.

Norman and Lois Beaulieu, regular visitors to the Mill Resort, gave a big thumbs up to the ambiance around the pool and bar, as well as the extensive buffet

Entertainment continues through the night with a dance show from the Masiduri Folkloric Dance Group accompanied on the Caha di Orgel. This instrument enjoys a dedicated following of musicians on Aruba who take enormous pride in building their own street organs and devising the complex drums that produce the music.

Saturdays at The Mill Resort in Palm Beach now provide a delightful "Taste of Aruba" under the stars in the surroundings of their beautifully landscaped pool deck. Aruba flag shirts are optional but welcome!

Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

-- Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by



the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of Gold Coast Aruba which when complete will be a community

of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas. The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area and is expected to be complete by early 2013. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services program. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facil-

ties such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the

least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.

Eat like a local at The Queen's restaurant at Palm Beach Plaza



Grandma's classic Stew beef with Rice and Potato salad

An elegant décor with a breezy terrace overlooking Palm Beach welcomes guests to Varella Innocencia's very popular restaurant showcasing authentic local cuisine:

The Queen's

They may have moved from Oranjestad to hipper new digs in Palm Beach Plaza, but the food and prices are strictly native, which is what first won this charming eatery their loyal clientele. Varella's mom,

Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations, acknowledged on the menu with items such as "Carni Stoba di Mamachi"- "Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Steak, along with local delicacies like Keshi Yena -"Full Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted

Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lends that perfect bit of tang to this deliciously picturesque meal.

One of the distinctions of Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.)

Seafood main courses for Catch of the Day Aruban Style to shrimp and a mixed seafood platter with shrimp, fish, squid, scallops and mussels. Meat dishes such as BBQ Chicken and Ribs or Grilled Tenderloin, each including a choice of 2 side dishes; all quite yummy



Varella, Luisa and the next generation of chef

and bargain-priced to boot!

The Queen's is located on the second level of Palm Beach Plaza, tucked into a cozy corner at the front of the mall. If you have a mind to try the real deal in Aruban food, without a doubt, this is the way to truly eat like a local.

They are open daily, from 11:00 am to 11:00pm,

Telf: 5860606 and email: saus.arubancuisine@live.com, offering indoor and outdoor dining. Aside from an extensive menu they also have daily specials made from whatever is in season and Mama Luisa is in the mood to prepare, so don't forget to ask about what isn't on the menu!

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SPORTS

Tennis: Ivanovic eases past injury-prone Petkovic



STUTTGART (AFP) - Former world number one Ana Ivanovic needed just 72 minutes to see off Germany's Andrea Petkovic on Tuesday in the first round of Stuttgart's WTA tournament.

The 25-year-old Serbian, who won the 2008 French Open title on her way to being world number one that June, enjoyed a 6-3, 6-2 first-round win against wild-card Petkovic who is on her way back after a series of injuries.



Petkovic was playing her first match since withdrawing mid-tournament in Charleston earlier this month due to a calf injury - and that was just her third tournament back from a knee injury earlier in the year.

The only seeded player in action on Tuesday, Nadia Petrova won a tight straight-setter against Germany's match in Dinah Pfizenmaier.

The eight-seeded Russian won 7-6(7/2), 6-4 winner against the 21-year-old qualifier.

Both top seed Maria Sharapova, the reigning French Open champion, and China's Li Na, second seed here, start on Thursday having been given byes for the clay-court event which serves as a warm-up for May's French Open.

Australia's Samantha Stosur, who reached the 2010 Stuttgart final, plays former world number one Jelena Jankovic of Serbia on Wednesday, while fifth-seed Petra Kvitova of the Czech Republic is up against wild-card Annika Beck of Germany.

NFL: Chiefs eye blockers with NFL Draft top pick

NEW YORK (AFP) - The Kansas City Chiefs have the top pick in Thursday's National Football League Draft and a strong talent pool to consider, including blockers who could offer protection for new quarterback Alex Smith.

The Chiefs have said they have narrowed their choices to four candidates but refused to name them or reject the option of trading the top pick if the right offer comes along before Thursday night's annual allocation of college talent.

After matching Jacksonville at 2-14 for the NFL's worst record last season, the Chiefs hired former Philadelphia coach Andy Reid to guide the squad and named offensive left tackle Branden Albert as the club's "franchise player."

While ensuring Albert is among the NFL's top-paid

players at his job, protecting the back of the quarterback for \$9.83 million next season, the designation locks him to the Chiefs and he has said he wants to leave.

If the Chiefs can land a top lineman, they could afford to make a trade deal for Albert. And the draft offers two talented offensive tackles in Luke Joeckel of Texas A and M and Eric Fisher of Central Michigan.

Many NFL scouts see Joeckel as ready to step into the NFL immediately but Fisher might have the better long-term potential. With the Chiefs having given Miami permission to talk with Albert's agent, both blockers figure to be on Kansas City's list.

Jacksonville will make the second selection and Oregon defensive end Dion Jordan, a

Tennis: Organisers increase Wimbledon prize money 40%

LONDON (AFP) - Organisers of the Wimbledon tennis championships on Tuesday announced a massive hike in prize money for this year's competition and unveiled plans to build a roof over Court No.1 in time for the 2019 edition.

The All England Club said that the extra £6.5 million (\$9.9 million, 7.6 million euros) being made available was 40 percent more than in 2012 and took the total amount of prize money available this year to £22.6 million.

The hike represented "the

largest single increase and largest total prize money in the history of professional tennis", it said on its website, wimbledon.com

Winners of the men's and women's events at the Grand Slam event, won last year by Roger Federer and Serena Williams, will each receive £1.6 million -- up £450,000 or 39 percent from last year.

The club said that there would also be pay-day increases for players who lose in the early rounds of the competition, which this year runs from June 24 to July 7.

talented pass rusher, is expected to be the choice for new Jaguars' coach Gus Bradley.

Oakland will have the third pick, followed in order by Philadelphia, Detroit, Cleveland, Arizona, Buffalo, the New York Jets and Tennessee.

Reigning Super Bowl champion Baltimore will have the 32nd and final pick in the first round in a system that tries to promote parity among NFL clubs by giving the most successful the last chances at grabbing new prospects.

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Football: Bayern thrash Barca in semi-final first leg

MUNICH (AFP) - Bayern Munich are on the verge of their third Champions League final in four years after routing Barcelona 4-0 in Tuesday's semi-final, first leg.

It was the Spanish giants' worst European defeat since the 1997 group stage 4-0 loss to Dynamo Kiev.

Germany star Thomas Mueller was Barca's chief tormentor with goals in each half while striker Mario Gomez and Dutch wing Arjen Robben also netted to give Bayern a huge advantage for the return leg at the Camp Nou on May 1.

The stunning performance came at the end of a remarkable day even by Bayern's standards.



Arjan Robben Celebrating his goal on 73 minutes when the Dutchman skipped past Jordi Alba on the right, then slid his shot past Victor Valdes from a tight angle

First they announced they had signed young German star Mario Goetze from arch-rivals Borussia Dortmund for a reported 37 million euros.

Then it was reported that in March club president Uli Hoeneß caught up in a tax evasion scandal, was arrested and released on bail after a police

raid on his home.

But he was at the Allianz Arena to witness an incredible night for the hosts.

Barcelona's Argentinian superstar Lionel Messi started, despite struggling with a hamstring injury since the start of the month, but the world player of the year was a shadow of his usual self.

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NBA: continued from page 16

Officials reviewed the play and declared the basket good. Memphis had a chance to inbound the ball, but with just a tenth of a second on the clock the Grizzlies had no time to get the ball in the basket.

Paul finished with 24 points, nine assists and four rebounds for the Clippers. Blake Griffin added 21 points and eight rebounds.

Mike Conley led the Grizzlies with 28 points and nine assists. Gasol added 17 points and seven rebounds for Memphis, who trailed by 12 early in the fourth quarter.

Allen finished with 16 points and 10 rebounds, but he wasn't able to stop Paul -- who scored eight straight points for the Clippers in the last four minutes.

Allen said he felt he let his teammates down, but he believed the Grizzlies -- who fell to the Clippers in seven games in the first round last year -- can turn the series around back home in Memphis.

While in New York, Paul George, who sparked the Indiana Pacers into the NBA play-offs with the best season of his career, was named the NBA's Most Improved Player yesterday.

The 22-year-old swingman averaged a team-best 17.4 points, grabbed 7.6 rebounds, passed out 4.7 assists and blocked 1.8 shots a game -- all career highs for the third-year standout as the Pacers won the Central division title.

Indiana and Atlanta are

playing each other in the opening round of the NBA play-offs.

George was the only player in the NBA with at least 140 steals and 50 blocked shots, having 143 steals and 51 blocks. He had 19 games with three steals and 29 appearances with at least one steal and one block.

In voting on the award by a media panel, George received 311 of a possible 1,080 points, including 52 first-place ballots. Greivis Vasquez of New Orleans was second with 146 points, five more than Larry Sanders of Milwaukee.

George became the fourth Pacer player to receive the award, joining Jalen Rose in 2000, Jermaine O'Neal in 2002 and Danny Granger in 2009.

In Charlotte, Mike Dunlap was fired as coach of the Charlotte Bobcats after turning around the NBA club following the worst season in league history.

Dunlap, whose 33 years in coaching include three years with Australia's Adelaide 36ers, was named coach of the Bobcats last June, replacing Paul Silas after Charlotte went 7-59, the worst winning percentage in NBA history.

Under Dunlap this past season -- a full season rather than one shortened by an owner-player money dispute -- the Bobcats went 21-61 and edged Orlando by one game to avoid the worst record in the NBA this season.

| MLB Standings | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|----|----|-----------------|-----|---------------|----|----|------|------|
| American League | | | National League | | | | | | |
| East | W | L | Pct | GB | East | W | L | Pct | GB |
| BOSTON | 13 | 06 | .684 | -- | ATLANTA | 13 | 05 | .722 | -- |
| BALTIMORE | 11 | 08 | .579 | 2.0 | NY METS | 09 | 08 | .529 | 3.5 |
| YANKEES | 10 | 08 | .556 | 2.5 | WASHINGTON | 10 | 09 | .526 | 3.5 |
| TAMPA | 09 | 10 | .474 | 4.0 | PHILADELPHIA | 09 | 11 | .450 | 5.0 |
| TORONTO | 08 | 12 | .400 | 5.5 | MIAMI | 04 | 16 | .200 | 10.0 |
| Central | W | L | Pct | GB | Central | W | L | Pct | GB |
| KANSAS | 10 | 07 | .588 | -- | CINCINNATI | 12 | 08 | .600 | -- |
| MINNESOTA | 09 | 07 | .562 | 0.5 | ST. LOUIS | 11 | 08 | .579 | 0.5 |
| DETROIT | 09 | 09 | .500 | 1.5 | MILWAUKEE | 10 | 08 | .556 | 1.0 |
| CLEVELAND | 08 | 10 | .444 | 2.5 | PITTSBURGH | 10 | 09 | .526 | 1.5 |
| CHICAGO | 07 | 12 | .368 | 4.0 | CHICAGO | 05 | 13 | .278 | 6.0 |
| West | W | L | Pct | GB | West | W | L | Pct | GB |
| TEXAS | 12 | 06 | .667 | -- | COLORADO | 13 | 05 | .722 | -- |
| OAKLAND | 12 | 07 | .647 | .5 | SAN FRANCISCO | 13 | 07 | .650 | 1.0 |
| LA ANGELES | 07 | 10 | .375 | 5.0 | ARIZONA | 10 | 09 | .526 | 3.5 |
| SEATTLE | 07 | 13 | .368 | 5.5 | DODGERS | 08 | 10 | .444 | 5.0 |
| HOUSTON | 05 | 13 | .294 | 6.5 | SAN DIEGO | 05 | 14 | .263 | 8.5 |

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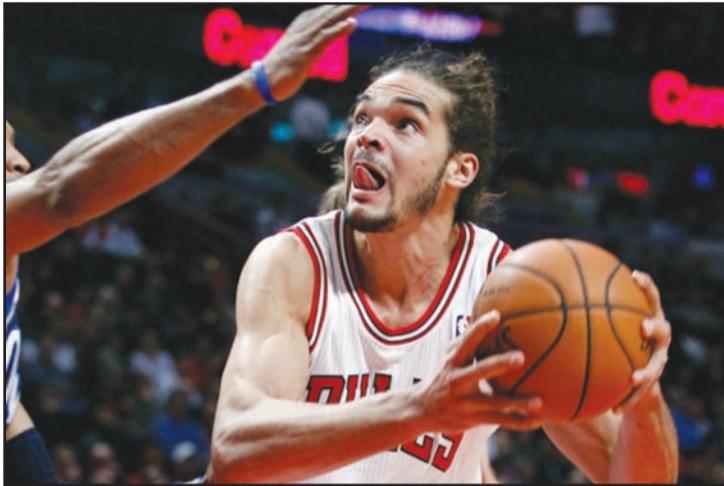
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NBA: First-round playoff results



NEW YORK (AFP) - Determined defense and a gritty performance from Joakim Noah helped the Chicago Bulls notch a 90-82 victory over the Brooklyn Nets on Monday that evened their NBA Eastern Conference playoff series.

The Bulls bounced back from a disappointing game-one defeat to knot the best-of-seven first-round series at one game apiece, with game three back in Chicago on Thursday.

Noah, playing restricted minutes after battling painful plantar fasciitis in his right foot, scored nine of his 11 points in the fourth quarter, and finished with 10 rebounds and two blocks as the Bulls bounced back from the 106-89 loss in game one on Saturday.

Bulls forward Luol Deng added 15 points, 10 rebounds and two blocks, while Carlos Boozer and Kirk Hinrich chipped in 13 points apiece.

Boozer also pulled down 12 rebounds for the Bulls, who connected on 48.1 percent of their shots from the field.

Brook Lopez scored 21 points with three blocks for the Nets, with Joe Johnson adding 17 and C.J. Watson contributing 10.

But the Bulls, who displayed an uncharacteristically porous defense in game one, limited Brooklyn to just 35.4 percent shooting from the floor.

The Nets, in the playoffs in their first season since moving to the New York City borough of Brooklyn, were trying for their first 2-0 lead in a post-season series since the first round in 2004 -- when they swept the New York Knicks.

Nets coach P.J. Carlesimo had warned his players to be ready for a Chicago team determined to rebound after their game-one defeat.

In the end, however, the Nets couldn't meet it. They made just four of 20 shots from three-point range and committed 12 turnovers that led to 16 Bulls points.

The Nets managed to pull within five points, 69-55, on Reggie Evans's slam dunk with 5:45 to play in the third quarter, but Chicago responded with a 9-2 scoring run.

After falling 14 points behind with 10:23 remaining, the Nets reeled off nine straight points to trim the deficit, only for the Bulls to wrest back the momentum with a 7-0 scoring run.

Noah started the spurt with a dunk, then grabbed an offensive rebound on Chicago's next possession and passed to Hinrich, who fed to Nate Robinson for a three-pointer.

Noah added a tip-in to give the Bulls an 80-68 lead with less than six minutes remaining.

In Los Angeles, Chris Paul made the game-winner with a tenth of a second left Monday, lifting the Los Angeles Clippers to a 93-91 win over the Memphis Grizzlies that stretched their NBA playoff series lead to 2-0.

The victory followed the Clippers' 112-91 triumph on Saturday in game one of the best-of-seven Western Conference first-round series, which shifts to Memphis for game three on Thursday.

Memphis center Marc

Gasol's slam dunk with 13.9 seconds remaining had knotted the score at 91-91.

After a timeout, Paul drove to the basket and banked in a shot over Tony Allen.

continues on page 15

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